

05/28/99
U.S. PTO
10555

Attorney's Docket No. 1217-990766

PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER

JC594 U.S. PRO
09/322333
05/28/99

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of:

Takeshi KONDO, Kazuhiro TAKAHASHI
and Yoshihisa MINEURA

Entitled: "PRESSURE SENSITIVE ADHESIVE SHEET AND
METHOD OF USE THEREOF"

Enclosed are:

X sheets of drawings
X An Assignment of the invention to: LINTEC CORPORATION
X Declaration and Power of Attorney
X Preliminary Amendment
X Claim for Priority with certified copy

CLAIMS AS FILED

<u>No. Filed</u>	<u>No. Extra</u>	<u>Small Entity Rate</u>	<u>Non-Small Entity Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Total Claims <u>4</u>	<u>-20</u> = <u>0</u>	X \$ 9.00	\$ 18.00	\$ <u>0</u>
Indep. Claims <u>3</u>	<u>- 3</u> = <u>0</u>	X \$ 41.00	\$ 78.00	\$ <u>0</u>
Multiple Dependent Claim/s		\$130.00	\$260.00	\$ <u>0</u>
Basic Fee +		\$380.00	\$760.00	\$ <u>760</u>
Total of above charges				\$ <u>760</u>

Checks in the amounts of \$ 760.00 and \$40.00 are enclosed to cover the filing fee and the assignment recording fee.

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 or patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17 associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 23-0650. Please refund any overpayment in the form of Electronic Funds Transfer to the bank account of record for Webb Ziesenhein Logsdon Orkin & Hanson, P.C.

An original and two copies of this sheet are enclosed.

May 28, 1999
Date

By Kent E. Baldauf
Kent E. Baldauf, Reg. No. 25,826
Attorney for Applicants
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1818
Telephone: 412/471-8815
Facsimile: 412/471-4094

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER

TAKESHI KONDO,
KAZUHIRO TAKAHASHI
and YOSHIHISA MINEURA

1217-990766

ENTITLED

"PRESSURE SENSITIVE ADHESIVE SHEET
AND METHOD OF USE THEREOF"

To BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C. 20231

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

"Express Mail" Label Number EL308542473US

Date of Deposit May 28, 1999

I hereby certify that the following attached paper or fee

PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER
(original and 2 copies) and
check in amount of \$760.00 for filing fee

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Nora Ann Pastrick
(Typed name of person mailing paper or fee)

Nora Ann Pastrick
(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER

TAKESHI KONDO,
KAZUHIRO TAKAHASHI
and YOSHIHISA MINEURA

1217-990766

ENTITLED

"PRESSURE SENSITIVE ADHESIVE SHEET
AND METHOD OF USE THEREOF"

To BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C. 20231

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

"Express Mail" Label Number EL308542473US

Date of Deposit May 28, 1999

I hereby certify that the following attached paper or fee

RECORDATION FORM COVER SHEET (1 p.)
with ASSIGNMENT (2 pp.) and check in
amount of \$40.00 for recording fee

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Nora Ann Pastrick
(Typed name of person mailing paper or fee)

Nora Ann Pastrick
(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER

TAKESHI KONDO,
KAZUHIRO TAKAHASHI
and YOSHIHISA MINEURA

1217-990766

ENTITLED

"PRESSURE SENSITIVE ADHESIVE SHEET
AND METHOD OF USE THEREOF"

To BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C. 20231

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

"Express Mail" Label Number EL308542473US

Date of Deposit May 28, 1999

I hereby certify that the following attached paper or fee

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Nora Ann Pastrick
(Typed name of person mailing paper or fee)

Nora Ann Pastrick
(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

PATENT APPLICATION
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 1217-990766

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :

TAKESHI KONDO, : PRESSURE SENSITIVE
KAZUHIRO TAKAHASHI : ADHESIVE SHEET AND
and YOSHIHISA MINEURA : METHOD OF USE THEREOF

Serial No. Not Yet Assigned :

Filed Concurrently Herewith :

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

May 28, 1999

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 10, delete "irregularity" and insert therefor --irregular--.

Page 2, line 18, delete "to result" and insert therefor --resulting--.

Page 2, line 19, delete "Similar" and insert --A similar--.

Page 2, line 20, after "for", insert --the--.

Page 2, line 24, delete "called" and insert --referred to--.

Page 3, line 7, delete "OBJECT OF THE INVENTION".

Page 3, line 12, delete "irregularity" and insert
therefor --irregular--.

Page 4, line 14, delete "irregularity" and insert
therefor --irregular--.

Page 13, line 25, delete "irregularity" and insert
therefor --irregular--.

Page 14, line 14, delete "EFFECT OF THE INVENTION".

Page 14, line 18, delete "irregularity" and insert
therefor --irregular--.

Page 15, line 10, delete "semiconductor" and insert
therefor --semiconductor--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) A method of use of the pressure
sensitive adhesive sheet claimed in claim 1 [or 2], comprising
sticking the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet to a surface of
an adherend and working the adherend at its back while protecting
5 the adherend surface by means of the pressure sensitive adhesive
sheet.

Please add new claim 4 as follows:

--4. A method of use of the pressure sensitive
adhesive sheet claimed in claim 2, comprising sticking the
pressure sensitive adhesive sheet to a surface of an adherend and
working the adherend at its back while protecting the adherend
5 surface by means of the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet.--

N THE ABSTRACT:

Page 23, line 9, delete "irregularity" and insert therefor --irregular--.

REMARKS

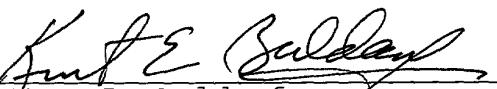
Amendments have been made to the specification in order to correct certain grammatical and translational problems and to place the specification in conformance with standard United States patent practice. Claim 3 has been amended to eliminate the multiple dependency and claim 4 has been added to further define the invention.

Examination and allowance of pending claims 1-4 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

WEBB ZIESENHEIM LOGSDON
ORKIN & HANSON, P.C.

By


Kent E. Baldauf
Registration No. 25,826
Attorney for Applicants
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1818
Telephone: 412-471-8815
Facsimile: 412-471-4094

TITLE

PRESSURE SENSITIVE ADHESIVE SHEET AND METHOD OF
USE THEREOF

5

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a pressure sensitive adhesive sheet. More particularly, the present invention relates to a pressure sensitive adhesive sheet which, at the time of working of the back 10 of an adherend having a surface whose irregularity height differences are large, is preferably stuck to the adherend surface to thereby protect it during the working. The invention also relates to a method of use thereof.

15

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In the step of grinding the back of a semiconductor wafer, the surface thereof having electrical circuits formed thereon is protected by a pressure sensitive 20 adhesive sheet. The height differences of customary circuits attributed to electrode elements have ranged from about 5 to 20 μm . For the wafer having these customary circuits formed thereon, the conventional surface protective sheets can fully protect the circuits

without the occurrence of circuit breakage or wafer cracking and thus have been satisfactory.

However, in recent years, the method of mounting IC chips is being diversified. For example, the packaging 5 method in which an IC chip circuit surface is arranged down has been developed. In this packaging method, electrode elements protrude from the circuit surface and the height differences thereof are 30 μm or more, occasionally greater than 100 μm .

10 When the grinding of the back of the wafer having such protrudent electrode elements formed thereon is carried out while protecting the surface with the conventional surface protective sheet, it has been encountered that the back is deeply ground at portions 15 corresponding the protrudent elements to thereby cause depressions (dimples) to occur on the back of the wafer. Further, it has been encountered that dimple portions crack to result in the breakage of the wafer.

Similar problem is encountered with respect to ink 20 (bad mark) provided for marking of failure circuits after the inspection of the wafer circuits.

Protrudent portions formed on the surface of semiconductor wafers like those mentioned above are called as bumps. For the semiconductor wafers having 25 large bumps, measures have been taken, which include,

for example, decreasing the hardness of the substrate
film of the surface protective sheet and increasing the
thickness of the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet.
These measures, however, have been unsatisfactory, and
5 the above problems have not yet been resolved.

OBJECT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention has been made in view of the
above state of the prior art. It is an object of the
10 present invention to provide a pressure sensitive
adhesive sheet which, at the time of working of the back
of an adherend having a surface whose irregularity
height differences are large, is preferably stuck to the
adherend surface to thereby protect it during the
15 working. And another object of the present invention is
to provide a method of use thereof.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The pressure sensitive adhesive sheet of the
20 present invention comprises a substrate and,
superimposed thereon, a pressure sensitive adhesive
layer, this substrate exhibiting a maximum value of
dynamic viscoelasticity $\tan \delta$ of at least 0.5 at a
temperature ranging from -5 to 80°C.

It is preferred that the above substrate have a thickness and Young's modulus whose product is in the range of 0.5 to 100 kg/cm.

The present invention is also concerned with a 5 method of use of the above pressure sensitive adhesive sheet comprising sticking the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet to a surface of an adherend and working the adherend at its back while protecting the adherend surface by means of the pressure sensitive adhesive 10 sheet.

This invention provides a surface protective pressure sensitive adhesive sheet which can precisely follow the irregularities of an adherend surface to thereby absorb the irregularity height differences and 15 which, at the time of grinding of the back of the adherend, enables accomplishing a smooth back grinding without being affected by the irregularities of the adherend surface.

20 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention will be described in detail below.

The pressure sensitive adhesive sheet of the present invention comprises a substrate and,

superimposed thereon, a pressure sensitive adhesive layer.

The substrate exhibits a maximum value of dynamic viscoelasticity $\tan \delta$ (hereinafter simply referred to as "tan δ value") of at least 0.5, preferably 0.5 to 2.0, and still preferably 0.7 to 1.8 at a temperature ranging from -5 to 80°C. The terminology "tan δ " used herein means the loss tangent which defines the ratio of loss elastic modulus/storage elastic modulus. It is measured by the use of a dynamic viscoelasticity measuring instrument on the basis of response to a stress such as tension or torsion applied to an object.

In the present invention, it is preferred that the above substrate have a thickness and Young's modulus whose product is in the range of 0.5 to 100 kg/cm, especially 1.0 to 50 kg/cm, and still especially 2.0 to 40 kg/cm. The thickness of the substrate is preferably in the range of 30 to 1000 μm , still preferably 50 to 800 μm , and optimally 80 to 500 μm .

The substrate is composed of a resin film, the type of which is not particularly limited as long as the above properties are exhibited. The above properties may be exhibited by either the resin per se or the resin blended with additives. The substrate may be prepared by either conducting film formation by a curable resin

and curing the film or conducting film formation by a thermoplastic resin.

For example, a photocurable resin or a thermosetting resin is used as the curable resin.

5 Preferred is a photocurable resin.

The photocurable resin is preferably selected from among, for example, resin compositions whose principal component is a photopolymerizable urethane acrylate oligomer and polyene-thiol resins.

10 This urethane acrylate oligomer can be obtained by reacting an isocyanate-terminated urethane prepolymer which is obtained by reacting a polyester or polyether type polyol compound with a polyisocyanate compound such as 2,4-tolylene diisocyanate, 2,6-tolylene diisocyanate, 15 1,3-xylylene diisocyanate, 1,4-xylylene diisocyanate or diphenylmethane-4,4'-diisocyanate with an acrylate or methacrylate having hydroxyl group such as 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxypropyl acrylate, 2-hydroxypropyl methacrylate, 20 polyethylene glycol acrylate or polyethylene glycol methacrylate. This urethane acrylate oligomer has a photopolymerizable double bond in its molecule and undergoes polymerization and curing when irradiated with light to thereby form a film.

The molecular weight of urethane acrylate oligomers preferably used in the present invention is in the range of 1000 to 50,000, especially 2000 to 30,000. These urethane acrylate oligomers can be used either 5 individually or in combination.

It is often difficult to obtain a film only from the above urethane acrylate oligomer. Thus, films are generally obtained by diluting the urethane acrylate oligomer with a photopolymerizable monomer, conducting a 10 film formation and curing the film. The photopolymerizable monomer has a photopolymerizable double bond in its molecule, and, in the present invention, preferred is an acrylic ester compound having a relatively bulky group.

15 The photopolymerizable monomer employed for diluting the urethane acrylate oligomer is, for example, selected from among:

alicyclic compounds such as isobornyl (meth)acrylate, dicyclopentenyl (meth)acrylate, 20 dicyclopentanyl (meth)acrylate, dicyclopentenyloxy (meth)acrylate, cyclohexyl (meth)acrylate and adamantane (meth)acrylate; aromatic compounds such as benzyl acrylate; and heterocyclic compounds such as tetrahydrofurfuryl 25 (meth)acrylate, morpholinyl acrylate, N-

vinylpyrrolidone and N-vinylcaprolactam. According to necessity, polyfunctional (meth)acrylates may be used.

The above photopolymerizable monomer is preferably added in an amount of 5 to 900 parts by weight, still 5 preferably 10 to 500 parts by weight, and optimally 30 to 200 parts by weight to 100 parts by weight of the urethane acrylate oligomer.

On the other hand, the polyene-thiol resin for use in the production of the substrate is formed from a 10 polyene compound having no acryloyl group and a polythiol compound. Specifically, the polyene compound is selected from among, for example, diacrolein pentaerythritol, trimethylolpropane diallyl ether adduct of tolylene diisocyanate and unsaturated allylurethane 15 oligomer. Mercaptoacetic acid or mercaptopropionic acid ester of pentaerythritol can preferably be used as the polythiol compound. Furthermore, commercially available polyene polythiol oligomers can be used. The molecular weight of the polyene-thiol resin for use in the present 20 invention is preferably in the range of 3000 to 50,000, still preferably 5000 to 30,000.

In the forming of the substrate from the photocurable resin, the time spent by polymerization and curing effected by photoirradiation and the

photoirradiation dose can be reduced by mixing a photopolymerization initiator into the resin.

This photopolymerization initiator can be a photoinitiator such as a benzoin compound, an 5 acetophenone compound, an acylphosphine oxide compound, a titanocene compound, a thioxanthone compound or a peroxide compound or a photosensitizer such as an amine or a quinone. Specific examples thereof include 1-hydroxycyclohexyl phenyl ketone, benzoin, benzoin methyl 10 ether, benzoin ethyl ether, benzoin isopropyl ether, benzyl diphenyl sulfide, tetramethylthiuram monosulfide, azobisisobutyronitrile, dibenzyl, diacetyl and β -chloroanthraquinone.

The photopolymerization initiator is preferably 15 added in an amount of 0.05 to 15 parts by weight, still preferably 0.1 to 10 parts by weight, and optimally 0.5 to 5 parts by weight to 100 parts by weight of the resin total.

In the production of the above curable resin, 20 oligomer and monomer can be selected from among various combinations so that the above properties can be realized.

The thermoplastic resin for use in the substrate can be selected from among, for example, polyolefin 25 resins such as polyethylene, polypropylene, polybutene,

polybutadiene, polymethylpentene, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene chloride, nonhydrogenated styrene-vinylisoprene block copolymer and hydrogenated thereof. Of these, nonhydrogenated or hydrogenated styrene-vinylisoprene block copolymer is preferred.

5 The styrene-vinylisoprene block copolymer is generally an SIS (styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer) having a high content vinyl group. Both the nonhydrogenated and the hydrogenated styrene-vinylisoprene block copolymer per se exhibit a high peak of $\tan \delta$ at about room temperature.

10 Additives capable of enhancing the $\tan \delta$ value are preferably added to the above resin. Examples of the additives capable of enhancing the $\tan \delta$ value include 15 inorganic fillers such as calcium carbonate, silica and mica and metal fillers such as iron and lead. Especially, the addition of metal fillers having a high specific gravity is effective.

20 Further, the substrate may contain other additives, for example, plasticizers or colorants such as pigments and dyes in addition to the above components.

With respect to the film forming method, for 25 example, the substrate can be produced by first casting a liquid resin (for example, noncured resin or resin solution) onto a processing sheet in the form of a thin

film and subsequently conducting given steps for film formation by means of appropriate way corresponding to resin type. In this method, the stress upon the resin during the film formation is slight, so that the

5 occurrence of fish-eye (insoluble portion of the resin components) is slight. Moreover, the uniformity of the film thickness is high and the thickness precision generally falls within 2%.

Another preferred method of forming a film
10 comprises calendering or extrusion forming with the use of T die or tubular film method.

Corona treatment or superimposition of another layer such as primer may be effected on an upper surface, namely the side furnished with the pressure
15 sensitive adhesive layer, of the substrate in order to enhance the adherence to the pressure sensitive adhesive layer between the substrates.

The pressure sensitive adhesive sheet of the present invention is produced by superimposing the
20 pressure sensitive adhesive layer on the above substrate. When the pressure sensitive adhesive layer is composed of an ultraviolet curable pressure sensitive adhesive, a transparent substrate is used.

The pressure sensitive adhesive layer can be formed
25 from various conventional pressure sensitive adhesives.

PRINTED IN U.S.A. 60

These pressure sensitive adhesives are not limited and, for example, any of rubber, acrylic, silicone and polyvinyl ether based pressure sensitive adhesives can be used. Further, radiation curable, thermally foaming 5 and water swellable pressure sensitive adhesives can be used.

Although depending on the type of employed material, the thickness of the pressure sensitive adhesive layer is generally in the range of about 3 to 10 100 μm , preferably about 10 to 50 μm .

Various pressure sensitive adhesives can be used as the above pressure sensitive adhesive without any particular limitation. Those described in, for example, Japanese Patent Publication No. 1(1989)-56112 and 15 Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication No. 7(1995)-135189 are preferably used as the radiation curable (light curable, ultraviolet curable or electron beam curable) pressure sensitive adhesive, which, however, is not limited thereto. In the present invention, it is 20 especially preferred to employ ultraviolet curable pressure sensitive adhesives. Moreover, those described in, for example, Japanese Patent Publication No. 5(1993)-77284 and Japanese Patent Publication No. 6(1994)-101455 are preferably used as the water 25 swellable pressure sensitive adhesive.

The pressure sensitive adhesive sheet of the present invention can be obtained by coating a variable substrate in appropriate thickness with the above pressure sensitive adhesive according to the customary 5 technique employing a knife roll coater, a gravure coater, a die coater, a reverse coater or the like and drying the pressure sensitive adhesive to thereby form a pressure sensitive adhesive layer on the substrate. When considered necessary, a release liner is applied 10 onto the pressure sensitive adhesive layer.

The pressure sensitive adhesive sheet of the present invention is used to protect the surface of various items and to effect temporary fixing at the time of precision working. In particular, the pressure 15 sensitive adhesive sheet is suitably used as one for protecting the circuit surface during the grinding of the back of semiconductor wafers. The pressure sensitive adhesive sheet of the present invention is furnished with the substrate possessing the above 20 specified properties and hence effectively absorbs the irregularities of the circuit surface. Therefore, the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet of the present invention can not only be stuck with satisfactory adherence to wafers provided with bumps and the like and 25 thus having large surface irregularity height

50 45 40 35 30 25 20 15 10 5 0

differences but also mitigate the influence of the irregularities of the wafer surface on the back grinding to thereby enable not only prevention of the wafer breakage but also attaining an extremely smooth 5 grinding. Moreover, when the pressure sensitive adhesive layer is composed of, for example, the ultraviolet curable pressure sensitive adhesive, the adhesive strength can be easily reduced by ultraviolet irradiation, so that, after the completion of required 10 working, the pressure sensitive adhesive layer can be easily stripped off by irradiating the pressure sensitive adhesive layer with ultraviolet rays.

EFFECT OF THE INVENTION

15 This invention provides a surface protective pressure sensitive adhesive sheet which can precisely follow the irregularities of an adherend surface to thereby absorb the irregularity height differences and which, at the time of grinding of the back of the 20 adherend, enables accomplishing a smooth back grinding without being affected by the irregularities of the adherend surface.

EXAMPLE

The present invention will further be illustrated below with reference to the following Examples which in no way limit the scope of the invention.

In the following Examples and Comparative Examples, 5 the "back grinding aptitude test" was carried out in the following manner.

Back grinding aptitude test

The following dotted bad marks by printing as bumps were provided on a specular surface of 6-inch 10 semiconductor wafer. Each pressure sensitive adhesive sheet was stuck to the surface of the wafer on which the bad marks were provided, and the opposite surface of the wafer was ground. The wafer configuration, grinding conditions and evaluation method were as follows:

15 (1) Wafer configuration

thickness of wafer (thickness of portion where no dot was printed): 650 to 700 μm ,

dot diameter: 500 to 600 μm ,

dot height: 70 μm , and

20 dot pitch: 10 mm interval (overall printing);

(2) Back grinding conditions

finished thickness: 200 μm , and

grinding apparatus: grinder DFG 840 manufactured by Disco Corporation; and

25 (3) Evaluation method

Ground wafer back was observed. When there was no crack or dimple or when dimples were observed but the maximum depth thereof was less than 2 μm , the wafer was evaluated as "good". On the other hand, when dimples 5 were observed and the maximum depth thereof was 2 μm or more, the wafer was evaluated as "dimpled".

The $\tan \delta$ was measured by a dynamic viscoelasticity measuring instrument at a 110 Hz tensile stress.

Specifically, each substrate was sampled into a 10 predetermined size, and the $\tan \delta$ was measured at a frequency of 110 Hz and at temperature ranging from -40 to 150°C with the use of Rheovibron DDV-11-EP manufactured by Orientec Corporation. The maximum value of measured $\tan \delta$ at temperature ranging from -5 to 80°C 15 was employed as "tan δ value".

The Young's modulus was measured at a test speed of 200 mm/min in accordance with Japanese Industrial Standard K7127.

Example 1

20 50 parts by weight of urethane acrylate oligomer having a weight average molecular weight of 5000 (produced by Arakawa Chemical Industry Co., Ltd.), 50 parts by weight of isobornyl acrylate, 2.0 parts by weight of photopolymerization initiator (Irgacure 184 25 produced by Ciba-Geigy, Limited) and 0.2 part by weight

of phthalocyanine pigment were blended together, thereby obtaining a photocurable resin composition.

Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) film (produced by Toray Industries, Inc., thickness: 38 μm) as a casting 5 processing sheet was coated with the above resin composition at a thickness of 110 μm according to the fountain die technique, thereby forming a resin composition layer. Immediately after the coating, the resin composition layer was laminated with the same PET 10 film and thereafter irradiated with ultraviolet rays emitted from a high pressure mercury lamp (160 W/cm, distance 10 cm) at a dose of 250 mJ/cm^2 so that the resin composition layer was crosslinked and cured. Thus, a substrate film of 110 μm thickness was obtained 15 after peeling both the PET films. The $\tan \delta$ and Young's modulus of this substrate film were measured by the above methods. The results are given in Table 1.

One side of this substrate film was coated with a pressure sensitive adhesive composition prepared by 20 blending together 100 parts by weight of acrylic pressure sensitive adhesive (copolymer of n-butyl acrylate and acrylic acid), 120 parts by weight of urethane acrylate oligomer whose molecular weight was 8000, 10 parts by weight of curing agent (diisocyanate 25 type compound) and 5 parts by weight of

photopolymerization initiator (benzophenone type compound), and dried so that a pressure sensitive adhesive layer of 20 μm thickness was formed. Thus, a pressure sensitive adhesive sheet was obtained.

5 The back grinding aptitude test of the obtained pressure sensitive adhesive sheet was conducted. The results are given in Table 1.

Example 2

10 The same procedure as in Example 1 was repeated except that morpholinyl acrylate was used in place of isobornyl acrylate. The results are given in Table 1.

Example 3

15 The same procedure as in Example 1 was repeated except that a mixture of 25 parts by weight of isobornyl acrylate and 25 parts by weight of morpholinyl acrylate was used in place of 50 parts by weight of isobornyl acrylate. The results are given in Table 1.

Example 4

20 A 60% toluene solution of styrene-vinylisoprene block copolymer (Hybrar VS-1 produced by Kuraray Co., Ltd.) was cast on the same support film as in Example 1, and dried at 100°C for 2 minutes without lamination and, ultraviolet irradiation. Thus, a 300 μm thick substrate film having the $\tan \delta$ value and Young's modulus listed 25 in Table 1 was obtained.

A pressure sensitive adhesive sheet was prepared from the obtained substrate film in the same manner as in Example 1. The back grinding aptitude test of the obtained pressure sensitive adhesive sheet was 5 conducted. The results are given in Table 1.

Example 5

In place of the photocurable resin composition of Example 1, polyene-thiol resin (BY-314 produced by Asahi Denka Kogyo K.K.) was formed into a film and cured in 10 the same manner as in Example 1, thereby obtaining a substrate film of 250 μm thickness. The $\tan \delta$ and Young's modulus of this substrate film were measured by the above methods. The results are given in Table 1. A pressure sensitive adhesive sheet was prepared from the 15 obtained substrate film in the same manner as in Example 1. The back grinding aptitude test of this pressure sensitive adhesive sheet was conducted. The results are given in Table 1.

Example 6

20 The same procedure as in Example 1 was repeated except that the amount of added urethane acrylate oligomer (produced by Arakawa Chemical Industry Co., Ltd.) was changed to 60 parts by weight and 50 parts by weight of N-vinylcaprolactam was used in place of 50

parts by weight of isobornyl acrylate. The results are given in Table 1.

Comparative Example 1

The same procedure as in Example 1 was repeated
5 except that 110 μm thick low-density polyethylene film (trade name: Sumikathene L705) was used as the substrate film. The results are given in Table 1.

Comparative Example 2

The same procedure as in Example 1 was repeated
10 except that a 100 μm thick film of ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer (vinyl acetate content: 12% by weight) was used as the substrate film. The results are given in Table 1.

Comparative Example 3

15 The same procedure as in Example 1 was repeated except that a 110 μm thick film of ethylene/methyl methacrylate copolymer (methyl methacrylate content: 6% by weight) was used as the substrate film. The results are given in Table 1.

20 Comparative Example 4

The same procedure as in Example 1 was repeated except that a 110 μm thick film of ethylene/methacrylic acid copolymer (methacrylic acid content: 8% by weight) was used as the substrate film. The results are given
25 in Table 1.

Comparative Example 5

The same procedure as in Example 1 was repeated except that a 100 μm polyethylene terephthalate film was used as the substrate film. The results are given in 5 Table 1.

Table 1

	Max. value of tan δ (-5 to 80°C)	Young's modulus (kg/cm ²)	Film thickness (μm)	[FT]x[YM] (kg/cm)	Back grinding aptitude
Example 1	0.78	1100	110	12.1	good
2	0.85	2400	110	26.4	good
3	1.18	1400	110	15.4	good
4	1.05	100	300	3.0	good
5	1.61	120	250	3.0	good
6	0.81	3000	110	33.0	good
Comp. Ex. 1	0.19	1300	110	14.3	dimpled, wafer broken
2	0.16	660	100	6.6	dimpled, wafer broken
3	0.21	900	110	9.9	dimpled
4	0.17	1300	80	10.4	dimpled, wafer broken
5	0.03	35000	100	350.0	dimpled, wafer broken

Note

[FT]x[YM] means [film thickness]x[Young's modulus].

What is claimed is:

1. A pressure sensitive adhesive sheet comprising a substrate and, superimposed thereon, a pressure sensitive adhesive layer, said substrate exhibiting a 5 maximum value of dynamic viscoelasticity $\tan \delta$ of at least 0.5 at a temperature ranging from -5 to 80°C.
2. The pressure sensitive adhesive sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the substrate has a thickness and Young's modulus whose product is in the 10 range of 0.5 to 100 kg/cm.
3. A method of use of the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet claimed in claim 1 or 2, comprising sticking the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet to a surface of an adherend and working the adherend at its 15 back while protecting the adherend surface by means of the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet.

ABSTRACT

The invention is concerned with a pressure sensitive adhesive sheet comprising a substrate and, superimposed thereon, a pressure sensitive adhesive 5 layer, said substrate exhibiting a maximum value of dynamic viscoelasticity $\tan \delta$ of at least 0.5 at a temperature ranging from -5 to 80°C. At the time of working of the back of an adherend having a surface whose irregularity height differences are large, this 10 pressure sensitive adhesive sheet is preferably stuck to the adherend surface to thereby protect it during the working.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER

TAKESHI KONDO,
KAZUHIRO TAKAHASHI
and YOSHIHISA MINEURA

1217-990766

ENTITLED

"PRESSURE SENSITIVE ADHESIVE SHEET
AND METHOD OF USE THEREOF"

To BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C. 20231

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

"Express Mail" Label Number EL308542473US

Date of Deposit May 28, 1999

I hereby certify that the following attached paper or fee

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT
APPLICATION (3 pp.), SPECIFICATION (21 pp.),
CLAIMS (1 pp.) and ABSTRACT (1 p.)

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Nora Ann Pastrick
(Typed name of person mailing paper or fee)

Nora Ann Pastrick
(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

English Language Declaration

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

PRESSURE SENSITIVE ADHESIVE SHEET AND METHOD OF USE THEREOF

the specification of which

(check one)

is attached hereto.

was filed on _____ as

Application Serial No. _____

and was amended on _____
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)	<u>Priority Claimed</u>
------------------------------	-------------------------

152835/1998	Japan	2/June/1998	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)		
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)		
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)		
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)
--------------------------	---------------	--

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)
--------------------------	---------------	--

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (List name and registration number)

William H. Webb	13,467	Richard L. Byrne	28,498	Michael I. Shamos	30,424
David C. Bruening	20,742	Frederick B. Ziesenhein	19,438	John W. McIlvaine	34,219
William H. Logsdon	22,132	Kent E. Baldauf	25,826	Blynn L. Shideler	35,034
Russell D. Orkin	25,363	Barbara E. Johnson	31,198	Julie W. Meder	36,216
David C. Hanson	23,024	Paul M. Reznick	33,059	Lester N. Fortney	38,141

Send Correspondence to:

Russell D. Orkin, 700 Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15219-1818

Direct Telephone calls to: (name and telephone number)

Full name of sole or first inventor	Takeshi KONDO	
Inventor's signature	<u>Takeshi Kondo</u>	Date May 6, 1999
Residence	Urawa-shi, Saitama, Japan	
Citizenship	Japanese	
Post Office Address	Lintec Dai-2 Urawaryo 401, 7-7-3, Tsuji, Urawa-shi, Saitama 336-0026, Japan	
Full name of second joint inventor, if any	Kazuhiko TAKAHASHI	
Second inventor's signature	<u>Kazuhiko Takahashi</u>	Date May 6, 1999
Residence	Kawaguchi-shi, Saitama, Japan	
Citizenship	Japanese	
Post Office Address	5-3-17, Shiba, Kawaguchi-shi, Saitama 333-0866, Japan	

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)

Full name of third joint inventor, if any

Yoshihisa MINEURA

Third inventor's signature

Yoshihisa Mineura

Date May 6, 1999

Residence

Tokyo, Japan

Citizenship

Japanese

Post Office Address

Sun House 201, 15-7, Nakacho, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo

173-0022, Japan

Full name of fourth joint inventor, if any

Fourth inventor's signature

Date

Residence

Citizenship

Post Office Address

Full name of fifth joint inventor, if any

Fifth inventor's signature

Date

Residence

Citizenship

Post Office Address

Full name of sixth joint inventor, if any

Sixth inventor's signature

Date

Residence

Citizenship

Post Office Address